

Tsuga canadensis



eastern hemlock

Family	Pinaceae	
Origin	Native	
WIS Code	FAC	CoC 8



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DESCRIPTION

Evergreen tree (to 30 m tall) with a lax cone-shaped crown, spreading drooping lower branches and scaly deeply fissured dark brown bark. Leaves (8 to 13 mm long) are needle-like, soft, flattened, with shiny green upper surface and whitish lower surface with a green mid-rib. The short-stalked leaves are arranged spirally around the twig, but petioles (stalks) of the upper and lower leaves twist so the branch has a flattened appearance, giving the denuded branches a rough texture.

POLLEN AND SEED CONES

March to April. Male and female reproductive structures are separate on the same tree, with male cones in leaf axils and seed cones at the end of the previous year's twigs. Fruits are winged seeds that form in the mature leathery seed cone (1.5 to 2.5 cm).

HABITAT

Moist to dry upland forests, seepage swamps, stream banks, and cool ravines.

SIMILAR SPECIES

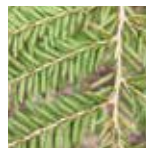
Picea rubens, red spruce, has four-sided stiff needles (not soft, flattened leaves) pointing out in all directions from the branches. The cones are larger (3 to 4.5 cm) and are woody (not leathery). See *Picea rubens* page for more details. *Abies balsamea*, balsam fir, has a conical more compact shape, longer needles (10 to 32 mm) and larger resinous cones (3 to 10 cm).



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Picea rubens

Abies balsamea